Numb. 5514

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday February 19. to Saturday February 23. 1717.

Westminster, February 20.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir William Oldes, Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most Gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Was in hopes, that the Success, which it pleased God to give Us, in Defeating the late Rebellion, might have Secured to the Nation Peace, Plenty, and Tranquillity.

My Endeavours have not been wanting, during your Recess, to Improve the Happy Prospect which was in View, by Entring into such Negotiations as I judged most conducive to those good Ends; and 'tis with Pleasure I can acquaint you, that many Defects in the Treaties of Utrecht, which very nearly affected the Trade, and even the Security of these Kingdoms, have been remedied by subsequent Conventions, the Happy Consequences of which have already very sensibly appeared by the Flourishing Condition of Our Trade and Credit.

By the Alliance lately Concluded with France and the States-General, We are soon to be Eased of all future Apprehensions from Dunkirk and Mardyke; the Pretender is actually Removed beyond the Alps; his Adherents are Deprived of all Hopes of Support and Countenance from France; and even the Assistance of that Crown is Stipulated to Us in case of Exigency.

It seemed Reasonable to Expect, that such a Situation of Affairs at Home and Abroad should have Recovered from their Delusion, all such of Our Subjects as had Unhappily been Seduced by the Craft and Wickedness of Desperate and Ill-designing Men, and thereby have Afforded Me the Opportunity, which I Desired, of following the Natural Bent of My own Inclinations to Lenity, by Opening this Session with an Act of Grace; but such is the Obstinate and Inveterate Rancour of a Faction amongst Us, that it hath again Prompted them to Animate and Stir up Foreign Powers to Disturb the Peace of their Native Country, they will choose rather to make Britain a Scene of Blood and Confusion, and to Venture even the putting this Kingdom under a Foreign Yoke, than give over their Darling Design of Imposing a Popish Pretender.

I have Ordered to be laid before you Copies of Letters which have Passed between the Swedish Ministers on this Occasion, which contain a certain Account of the projected Invasion; and I promise My Self from your Experienced Zeal and Affection to my Person and Government, that you will come to such Resolutions as will Enable Me, by the Blessing of God, to Defeat all the Designs of Our Enemies against Us.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I did hope, the putting an End to the late Rebellion would have so far Secured the Peace and Tranquillity of the Nation, that I might, consistently with the Safety of my People, have made a Considerable Reduction of the Forces; but the Preparations which are making from Abroad to Invade us, oblige Me to ask such Supplies as you shall find absolutely Necessary for the Defence of the Kingdom.

You are all Sensible of the Insupportable Weight of the National Debts, which the Publick became Engaged for, from the Necessity of the Times, the Pressures of a Long and Expensive War, and the Languishing State of Publick Credit; but the Scene being now so Happily changed, if no New Disturbances shall plunge Us again into Streights and Difficulties, the general Expectation seems to require of you, that you should turn your Thoughts towards some Method of Extricating your selves, by Reducing, by Degrees, the Debts of the Nation.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have an entire Confidence in you, and have therefore nothing to ask, but that you would take such Measures, as will best Secure your Religion and Liberties: While you Preserve those Inestimable Blessings, I shall Sit Easie and Safe on My Throne, having no other View but the Happiness and Prosperity of My People.

Vienna, Feb. 17. **The President Windisgratz, and Count Schonborn, Vice-Chancellour of the Empire, have obtained the Emperour's Leave to quit their Country Seats, to which they were confined upon the Account of their late Quarrel: The Vice-Chancellour came back on the 11th, and the President the Day after, and they have since both acted in their respective Employments. The Emperour has given the Government of Great Glogaw in Silesia to Count Zinzendorf, Maggiordomo to the Archdutchesses Daughters of the late Emperour Joseph, and he has exchanged it with**